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Pelham NEWS

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■ INSIDE

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RACES

Candidates for the Oct. 25 Pelham municipal election have started to file papers with the town's clerk. So far, Mayor Dave Augustyn and Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook are squaring off in the race for mayor. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 10. See page 2.

See Inside: INSERTS Full Distribution

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■ CHALLENGE: Building a school in Afghanistan

Pelham music producer assists Rotary project

MARYANNE FIRTH
Pelham NEWS Staff

Are you part of something more?
It's a question that will ring in the minds of youth across the country when they learn about the Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan School Challenge.

Rotary Canada, which is celebrating its 100th year, is working in partnership with the Canadian government to build a fully-furnished school in Afghanistan.

Upon completion, the school will accommodate 4,000 boys and girls in three shifts throughout the day.

The Canadian International Development Agency has committed to match money raised by Rotary clubs to build the school, currently under construction, to a maximum \$518,000.

As part of the school-building project, a national awareness campaign will be launched on Aug. 20, bringing to light the lifestyles of people living in Afghanistan and breaking down the stigmas of a war-torn nation.

The campaign will work to engage Canadian high school students, educating them about cultural differences and Canadian development efforts that are underway.

Connie Roberts, of Roberts Marketing, has been working with Canadian Rotary Collaboration for International Development to create and promote the upcoming



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Pelham producer and musician Mark Lalama and singer-songwriter and Welland native Janet Grand listen to the final mix of More I Want to Know, the official song for the Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan School Challenge.

campaign.

To help convey the message and emotions of the project, Roberts enlisted the help of singer-songwriter and Welland native Janet Grand to create an official song for the campaign.

More I Want to Know, produced by Pelham's Mark Lalama, will be

available for download on the project website beginning in August.

"We sometimes lose sight of how fortunate we are as Canadians," Roberts said, which is why the song begs the question "Are you part of something more?"

The whole point of the awareness campaign, she said, is to

get youth to think beyond the Canadian borders.

"The point is to have youth think about 'life that goes on in the country, outside the conflict,'" said CRICID program officer Morgan Short.

See **ROTARY** | A3

upfront

■ **ELECTION:** Pelham council races forming

Candidates begin filing for Oct. 25 election

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Candidates are starting to line up for the Monday, Oct. 25 municipal election.

As of early this week, all of Pelham's council incumbents have filed papers to run again.

Mayor Dave Augustyn was the first early this year. Since then, Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook has announced she will challenge him for the mayor's seat.



Dave Augustyn

In Ward 1, so far three candidates are running. The ward covers Fenwick and western rural Pelham from the boundary with St. Catharines in the north to the Welland River in the south.

Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz filed her papers early in the year. Since then, she has been joined by Larry Clark and Ward 1 Coun. Jim Lane in the race for the two seats in the ward.

In Ward 2, which will have a one vacant seat with Cook contending for mayor, four candidates are running for the two openings.

Ward 2 Coun. Dave Emmons is seeking reelection while Gary Accursi,

Catherine King and Don Cotter are challenging.

The ward covers western and northern Ponthill extending north to Sixteen Rd., west to Centre St. and south to Foss Rd.

In Ward 3, the two incumbent councillors, John Durlley and Peter Papp, have filed to run for the two seats.

Challengers have yet to come forward in the ward that includes southern Ponthill and extends south

to the Welland River and west to Cream St.



Sharon Cook

Regional Councillor Brian Baty has said he will seek reelection to Niagara regional council as Pelham's representative.

Pelham has two seats on

regional council: one for the mayor and one for a regional councillor.

Baty has served as regional councillor since the position was created seven years ago.

Candidates have until 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, to file nomination papers.

For more details on the local municipal election process see the town's website at www.pelham.ca

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

■ **ELECTION:** Four seek two seats

Gary Accursi joins crowded race for Pelham's Ward 2 council seat

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — Gary Accursi, chair of Pelham's downtown beautification committee, has joined a growing crowd.

The semi-retired 61-year-old dentist is among four, so far, seeking two town council seats available in Ward 2.

Incumbent David Emmons and newcomers Catherine King and Don Cotter are also running.

Current Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook will challenge Mayor Dave Augustyn for the

mayor's chair in the Oct. 25 municipal election.

Accursi said he considered running for council before but was not in a position to do it. Recently, he decreased his dental work load.

"I talked it over with my family and we came to a consensus that now is the time," he said.

Accursi and his wife, Mall, for 39 years have lived in Pelham for 40 years. They have five children and seven grandchildren.

"It's time to take advantage of our strengths and strengthen

our weaknesses," he said about the town.

It has a good agricultural base, he said, but the town must promote it more.

"We need to get more involved with agritourism," to support the farmers, he said.

Accursi, a founding member of the Pelham Business Association, called Pelham's business sector very diversified but it needs strengthening through promotion of the community.

He said Pelham must attract more businesses.

"We have to stop the leak-

age of so much money going to businesses outside of the community," he said.

Accursi praised the cooperation of the downtown beautification committee received from town council and town staff over the three years it worked on planning new downtowns for Ponthill and Fenwick. It advised on a Community Improvement Plan incentive program to improve downtown properties.

"We need to take advantage of our strong volunteer base by expanding the role of volunteers in local government," he said. "It's democracy at work."

Accursi, a former chair of Big Brothers of Welland County and hockey, baseball and lacrosse coach, said the youth in town need more resources such as a skateboard park, bike paths and other activity centres.

For 10 years, he was a home-builder and has been involved in residential and commercial property development since 1975.

The future of town-owned land at Rice Rd. and Regional Rd. 20 will be a key issue for the next council, Accursi said.

The town should not dispose of it until it is clear it has served

the town's needs, he said.

Pelham has three wards with each sending two representatives to council. All eligible residents can vote for mayor and the regional councillor. So far, Augustyn and Cook are running for mayor and Pelham Regional Coun. Brian Baty is standing for re-election.

In Ward 1 incumbents Debbie Urbanowicz and Jim Lane along with newcomer Larry Clark are running, and in Ward 3 incumbents John Durlley and Peter Papp are seeking re-election.

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■ ROTARY: School for Afghanistan

Multi-media effort to build new schools in Afghanistan

FROM PAGE A1

"They're still living their lives," she said of people in Afghanistan.

Rotary members will help to convey that message as they visit as many Canadian high schools as possible throughout the campaign, Roberts said.

The project offers an interactive portion, with youth able to participate in the challenge in a number of ways.

A multimedia contest will be held and students will also be able to sell Afghanistan School Challenge bracelets, raising funds for Rotary Canada's Afghanistan School Legacy Fund.

The fund will provide educational enhancements, such as a breakfast program, a vegetable garden, or equipment, for the students once the school is complete.

During the campaign, organizers will also work to set a Guinness World Record

for the most unique entries in an online guestbook, with hopes of reaching one million, Roberts said.

Youth will be invited to sign the book, sharing their well-wishes for children attending the newly built school.

The book will then be printed and given to the Afghanistan students to enjoy.

Once the campaign is launched in August, those interested in getting involved can view all the ways to participate at www.afghanistan-school.ca.

The campaign will run throughout the 2010-11 school year, culminating in June, just before Canadian troops are expected to be brought home, Roberts said.

For more information, visit the campaign Facebook page by searching Afghanistan School Challenge, or e-mail info@afghanistanschool.ca.

mfrjh@wellandtribune.ca



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Singer-songwriter and Welland native Janie Grand performs *More I Want to Know*, the official song for the Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan School Challenge.

Words to song flowed in the night

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — It was 2 a.m. and the words just came flowing out of Janie Grand.

The Welland native was watching a video of children in Afghanistan, and she became captivated by a young girl's gaze.

It was a look of curiosity, and of suspicion.

And it was from that look that Grand was inspired to put a pen to paper.

Now living in London, Ont., the Welland native has become part of a national campaign to help raise awareness around the life and culture of those living in Afghanistan.

The campaign is part of the Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan

School Challenge, which has Rotary clubs and the Canadian government partnering to build a school in the overseas country.

The awareness campaign, to be launched Aug. 20, will feature Grand's original song, *More I Want to Know*, produced by acclaimed musician and producer Mark Lalama.

Lalama — who has worked with artists such as Amy Sky and Olivia Newton-John — has been making time to create songs for a good cause since his first studio experience at 17, when he wrote a song for United Way in Welland.

This time around, he is producing Grand's solo project at his Pelham studio when the opportunity to get involved with the Afghanistan School Challenge came

along.

Lalama had previously produced another campaign song with Grand for grass-roots charity Heart to Heart Africa.

"Music is a universal language," he said, which can convey a message to people around the world, regardless of whether or not they understand the lyrics.

"Music can strike a chord with anyone ... You don't have to understand the language to understand the intent of the vocalists."

Grand hoped the song would inspire local youth to look past the conflict occurring in Afghanistan, to see the lives that carry on despite the war.

"It's all about the message," she said, adding she took her emotions from the video and

More I Want to Know

By Janie Grand

Am I a part of something more,
I want to know

Will half the world get closer
as I grow

Teach me how to live and take it home

Freedom's what I feel

All around me, I think you've found me

Let hope surround me like a hand I want to hold

When I get older I want to show her, war is over

And there's a hand I want to hold, yeah

Am I a part of something more,
is it a dream

To want to see outside the things I've seen

Open up the walls that stand between and hear me

Freedom's what I feel, freedom's what I feel

All around me, I think you've found me

Let hope surround me like a hand I want to hold

When I get older I want to show her, war is over

And there's a hand I want to hold, yeah

[Instrumental Bridge]

Are you a part of something more? Are you a part of something more?

[Children's voices — Hey — yeah]

Let hope surround me, like a hand I want to hold

When I get older I want to show her, war is over

And there's a hand I want to hold, yeah

There's more I want to know



Supplied Photo

Rotary Canada is partnering with the Canadian government to build a school in Afghanistan, which is pictured under construction. Through the project, Canadian Rotarian Centennial Afghanistan School Challenge, a national public awareness campaign will be launched Aug. 20.

applied them to the song.

"More I Want to Know will be available for download at www.afghanistanschool.ca after the campaign launch on Aug. 20.

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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Say thank you to Niagara Parks Commission

Pelham should send the Niagara Parks Commission a thank-you note.

To "Shake Off the City" advertising campaign couldn't have fit the town's image more. Scenic rural roads, orchards, vineyards and wooded glades are more common along Eglingsham St. and Canboro Rd. than on Clifton Hill, downtown Niagara Falls or even along the scenic Niagara Parkway.

The buffing and puffing by the Toronto media and GTA politicians has become a bonus for Niagara. Those at the "centre of the universe" were insulted by the \$245,000 ad campaign, which drew attention to shortcomings of life in the big city.

Niagara Parks officials estimate it has received an extra \$3 million worth of free exposure from media in Toronto, across Canada and into the United States.

Threats of a public relations war of retaliation by Toronto seem silly.

It would have far nothing but bows from across Canada. Just imagine the reaction if TO used its four-million population muscle to beat up on the little region of less than 500,000 across the lake.

A more sensible strategy would be to join hands with Niagara Parks and promote Niagara as Toronto's fun-filled rural backyard. If you don't have vineyards and estate wineries on Yonge St., why not say they are just around the bend of the lake?

We tell them we're just a short drive from the bright lights and the big city with its entertainment, professional sports and cultural attractions. The "Shake Off the City" advertising campaign has taught us how to so-called "sell" ourselves. Toronto has a media with a small-town mentality and is led by oversensitive politicians. Their overreaction to a public relations nudge from the home of tacky tourism is laughable.

comment

My Pelham Stay-cation

Don't you love it when guests arrive from out-of-town and you get to play tourist in Niagara? Just recently my cousin Stacey stopped by for a one day visit. We spent so much time touring Pelham that we didn't even make it all the way to Niagara Falls.

We started off at the Pelham Visitor Information Centre located at the Log Cabin in Fonthill and then we stopped in at Lookout Point Golf Club. The Niagara vista, even from the vantage of the parking lot, is absolutely unparalleled.

I explained to Stacey that the Town of Pelham is the highest



Cathy
Berkhout-Bosse
REAL ESTATE
VIEW

elevation in the Niagara Region because it is located on a rare geological formation known as the Fonthill Kame-Delta and our surrounding topography features a vast array of glacially formed hills and valleys. Winding country roads and babbling brooks, unique farms, shops and art studios - just the perfect context for an ideal driving or cycling tour on a warm summer

day.
I showed Stacey our local maple sugar bush locations and we visited the White Meadows Farm store. We tasted a variety of the local farm's own brand of maple products including salad dressing, red pepper jelly, maple preserves and of course, maple syrup. We enjoyed some sightseeing along one of my personal favourite Pelham routes - Sulphur Springs and Orchard Hill roads. The thought of living on a lane that closes for the winter never fails to conjure up thoughts of Henry David Thoreau and Walden Pond.

see REAL ESTATE / A6

The Zapper and the limits of human endurance

These new bug-zapper things are cool.
They are a battery powered electronic fly swatter; the size of a 1960s tennis racket and much more deadly.
This is the end of the fly swatter as we know it?



Arnie Dyker

Arnie got introduced to this latest approach to dealing with those God-awful flies and yellow jackets that love nothing more than destroying your backyard experience, at a get-together/barbecue at the neighbours' house a few weeks ago.

"What does this thing do?" Arnie inquired. The question was hardly out of his mouth when the eyes of Dave, the man of the house next door, took on a primal scream of a grin.

It took about two minutes for a yellow jacket to show up. He dastardly, rotten, heinous, multi-faceted eyes zeroing in on the plate of burgers on the table.

Dave, apparently taking his style from the Wicked Fingal Wizard, "stands like a statue."

The tension mounts.

Bug makes a swooping turn in an ugly arc like a fiery plane coming in for a burger blitz.

"SWOOSH!" Bug zapper describes graceful arc engineered by skilled hands.

"ZAAAAH!" comments the zapper as it sweeps bug out of the air and into a completely new reality, senselessly flattening up against concrete base of house wall. "Gotcha, ya little #87P!" exclaims Neighbour Dave, crushing the remaining life out of the offending insect with "Croc" brand flip-flop shoe.

"Wow!" notes Donna Jean,

"Croc!" comments Arnie.

"He loves that thing," remarks Dagmar, the lady of the house next door.

"It didn't quite kill it," observed Arnie.

"What does it run on?"

"Two D-cells," said Dave. "It does it all through the mouth of the time. There's a lot of power there."

"Abh...much could it hurt?" asked Arnie dismissively.

"A lot," replied Dave. The neighbour: "I tried it out. No. Don't go that again...."

see DYKER / A5



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Town council listened, and then approved a new noise bylaw

After the input by hundreds of residents, the hours of discussion at meetings, and the months of work by staff, it was a little odd that you could hear barely a sound when council adopted the new noise bylaw at our regular meeting on July 19. As you know, the Municipal Act allows towns to pass bylaws to prohibit and regulate noise to preserve, protect, and promote public health, safety, welfare, and peace and quiet.

The previous Noise Bylaw was enacted in September 1981 with a very minor revision (to change the penalty clause) in February 1983. While it comprehensively covered all manner of noises, it also contained a major drawback.

The old bylaw used a map to delineate between the rules in residential and agricultural



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

areas. As you can imagine, the town has grown considerably in the last 30 years and the map was out of date. The map didn't include residential growth areas like Timber Creek, Timsdale, Chestnut Ridge, or Martha Court. In contrast, the new bylaw is more a living document because it relies on the Zoning Bylaw. If a property's zoning changes, the rules for that property change.

Council sought feedback from the community. We received more than 50 letters, a couple of petitions, and a dozen presentations at a public meeting.

Two major concerns were brought forward: 1) the proposed 9 p.m. restriction on "yelling, shouting, hooping, whistling, and singing," and 2) the proposed restriction on using a snow blower or plows before 7 a.m.

Best assured, Council fixed the bylaw in both of these instances. First, staff admitted that the 9 p.m. restriction was an error and Council moved it back to 11 p.m. to match other restrictions (like loud music). Council also agreed with the vast majority of residents and removed any restrictions on the time of day to remove snow.

The new bylaw also removes some antiquated provisions. For example, the regulation of "snow making equipment" was removed since Lookout Golf Club hasn't had a ski run for many years.

see MAYOR / A6

■ DYKER

FROM PAGE A4

"Wanna try it?"
 Arnie is a man, and a man has to know.

"C'mme that thing, Dave?"
 He could hear Dagmar's voice, but the threat her words carried meant nothing to him: "Dave jumped three feet when he did it. It almost took his head off."

He squeezed the button that turns on the zap with his left thumb and pressed his right forefinger firmly into the metal mesh.

Even if he had read the warning right on the handle that clearly states: "This is not a toy. DO NOT touch the metal wires!" it would have made no difference. He's a man, and a man has to know.

Sparks flew out of his ears, his eyes rolled back in their sockets, his head spun around two full turns, and he jumped the requisite three feet.

"Whoa!" he offered, as soon as he could catch his breath. "That hurts like hell...."

"I gotta get me one of these!"

The next day, he did.

An hour later, he could be seen

running after every bug in North Pelham, flailing around like a heering in a rowboat.

In the ensuing two weeks, he had successfully slain the one yellow jacket he saw, three innocent moths, one deerfly, one June bug, four spiders, and a half-dozen skitters.

He's having a harder time with the house flies. His baiting average is around 120. Very poor by baseball standards, and about one fifth as well as he does with the old-time fly swatter.

More fun, though. Those little buggers are fast. He loves the challenge.

The collateral damage so far has been two bottles of wine splattered on the deck, three beers (although, to be fair, that was all at once, most of that onto a lady's lap at a pool party), two large Cokes, one pitcher lemonade, one bowl egg salad, two burgers drowned in the pool on the same sweep that conquered the glasses of beer, and a six-inch tear in one of those giant patio table umbrellas.

Arnie has discovered that the most effective way to kill a fly is to wait until it lands on somebody's

leg, turn the swatter on to "kill" and ever so gently squeeze the fly against the leg. The fly will then be electrocuted and easily removed for disposal.

The unfortunate part of this highly effective yet controversial technique is that the leg becomes involved in the process.

□□□

Arnie isn't allowed to play with his electronic fly swatter any more. His wife resented having her leg electrocuted.

Said it hurt like hell. Told him that if he ever tried that again, he'd learn the true meaning of the words "hurts like hell." Said that once the lawsuits started, she didn't believe there would be a long term market for his toy. Made him feel bad.

Am isn't sure about the long term prospects for the electronic fly swatter, either.

He is sure, though, that if it continues to sell to the men of the world, there will be a huge market for the training videos.

The women will buy that.

Arnie Dyker is a writer living in Pelham

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■ REAL ESTATE

There is lots to see and do in and around Pelham this summer

FROM PAGE A4

I'm not quite sure if the owners of Bow-ridge Herb Farm share my idyllic vision of their country setting but we sure enjoyed our

Impromptu tour of the farm business that they refer to as their retirement project!

During our travels we also visited St. John's Conservation Area, Short Hills Provincial

Park and Henry of Pelham winery with our tour ending in Jordan Village.

Next time I plan to reverse the route.

Sightsee through

Ellingham first, then tour through Fenwick via North Pelham, the Comfort Maple and Ivan's Garage, stop at a fruit farm or two, try out some cheeses at Chez Forcage, take a break at the Very Berry Tea Room and then visit all four Shoppes

of Ridgeville. Our tour will end with a stroll through the newly revitalized Fonthill Downtown and dinner at a sidewalk café.

Better yet—I'll be sure to suggest why just visit when you can live here too. I happen to know some folks

who would love to help you settle in.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, H.B.A. is a real estate broker and writer living in Pelham. You may read past columns at www.niagararealtysource.com

■ MAYOR

Collaboration key on new bylaw

FROM PAGE A4

In addition, since society is more environmentally conscious now, the new bylaw allows a maximum of 30 minutes for commercial vehicle idling in non-residential areas; it would

ban such idling in residential areas.

On behalf of council, I thank everyone that participated in the process and provided advice and feedback.

Working together we developed a far superior

bylaw that should serve the Town well for many years to come.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.



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■ GARDENS: 10th annual awards

Judging underway for Trillium Awards

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

There's beauty in every corner of Pelham.

That beauty will not only be recognized but praised as part of the 10th annual Trillium Awards.

Housed by Pelham's Communities in Bloom, the awards give credit to the owners and creators of the most beautifully-blossomed properties in the area.

Though entries were all submitted before July 15, judges have until the end of the month to decide which properties will take the top spot in each category.

This year's competition drew 40 entries from residents and businesses across the town.

Categories for this year's competition include: residential small frontage; residential large frontage; residential small professionally landscaped (in the last five years); residential large professionally landscaped (in the last five years); commercial property; multi-residential; best individual balcony; schools, churches and institutions; and most improved residential or commercial.

"The judges are looking for properties that are well-kept with exuberant flower beds,

It's an opportunity for them to share their gardens with others, with the community."

Betty Brown
Communities in Bloom committee member

displays of different plant materials, and an innovative design," said Communities in Bloom committee member Sandra Cypkik.

Only front yards are eligible to be judged in the competition, she said, making visiting all the homes in a timely manner easier for the judges.

The winners will be decided in early August, but awards will not be handed out until Oct. 4, during the Trillium Awards appreciation night.

Winners are awarded with a blonde trillium garden stake to put on their front lawn.

Committee member Betty Brown said people take pride in displaying their gardens and having their hard work outdoors recognized.

"It's an opportunity for them to share their gardens with others, with the community."

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■ THURSDAY NIGHT CONCERTS IN THE PARK



JOE CSEH PelhamNEWS Photo
Fonthill's Lindsey Mills, left photo, performs in the Fonthill Bandshell at Peace Park on July 22 to the delight of a large crowd. At right, Alexis and Rachel Miller of Fonthill dance to the music of Lindsey Mills during the Thursday Night Concert series at Peace Park.



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■ **CHARITY:** Resort holds third annual event

Spirit of giving alive in summertime

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

There may not be snow or stockings hung by the fire, but the spirit of Christmas is alive and well in July.

The third annual Christmas in July celebration took place Saturday at Bissell's Hidesaway Water Park and RV Resort.

While campers enjoyed activities at the community recreation hall — and even a visit from Santa Claus himself — the day was really about helping

those in need.

Throughout Saturday morning, youth from the resort made donations throughout the park, collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations for Pelham Cares.

The local agency's food bank is in need of donations all year round, not only during the holidays, organizer Berta Paterson said.

She created Christmas in July as a means for the Bissell's community, whom she calls

"very generous," to give back to families in need in the Pelham area.

A van full of food items was collected from the resort as well as close to \$400 in monetary donations.

Paterson said she hopes to see other parks and campgrounds take on the challenge, raising funds and much-needed food for their respective communities.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca

CORRECTION

The Pelham News sincerely apologizes to Lampmans Funeral Home for the incorrect ad running on page 2 of our paper. The HST deadline information should not have run.

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■ GOLF: Peninsula Lakes results

Winners drop their puts

For PelhamNEWS

The Ladies on Tuesday night play Low Net Low Gross and the winners were Pat Reynolds with a 41 and Debbi Dyck who shot a net 26.

The closest to the pin winners

were Vicki Pollquin on Quarry No. 2 with her shot finishing 7 feet 4 inches from the pin, and Leah Teggart on Quarry No. 5 with her shot ending up 5 feet 3 inches from the pin.

Both ladies have secured their spots into or much anticipated year end shootout.

The longest putt winner was Michelle Topolinsky whose putt on Quarry No. 5 travelled 9 feet 3 inches before falling into the hole.

The men on Wednesday played Low Net Low Gross and the winners were Elmer Debenedet with a 32 and Ed Learn with a net 32.

The closest to the pin winners were John Hanemaayer on Orchard No. 2 with his shot setting within 4 ft of the cup, Colin Morgan on Orchard No. 6 with a hole in one, and Elmer Debenedet on Orchard No. 8 with his shot ending up 4 feet 3 inches away.

The hidden hole was Orchard No. 8 so Elmer also punched his ticket into the always talked about Sun Life Financial Shootout under the lights.

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■ **REGION:** Arbitration decision**How the deal unfolds**

Arbitrated salary increases for members of Niagara Regional Police Association with base-pay rates for first-class constables in brackets:

- Jan. 1, 2009 — 2% (\$77,220) (\$78,147)
- Jan. 1, 2010 — 2% (\$79,709)
- July 1, 2010 — 1.125% (\$80,606)
- Jan. 1, 2011 — 2% (\$82,218)
- July 1, 2011 — 1.25% (\$83,246)

PETER DOWNS
QMI Agency

Niagara Regional Police officers will get pay hikes totalling close to 10% over three years, under an award handed out by an arbitrator Monday.

The three-year contract, retroactive to January 2009 — will increase the base pay for a first-class constable to

\$83,246 by July 2011 from \$75,706 at the end of 2008, when the previous contract expired.

The Niagara Region Police Association said the contract brings it closer to other comparable police services, such as Hamilton, Halton and Durham, while balancing the ability of local taxpayers to foot the bill.

"We have always been

about getting a fair and reasonable contract," association president Paul Di Simoni said Monday.

But at least one Niagara regional councillor slammed the arbitration process, arguing that it ignores a public-sector wage freeze that has been championed by the provincial Liberal government.

"It's frustrating beyond belief," St. Catharines

Regional Coun. Bruce Timms said.

"For this government to allow their arbitrators to run rampant with settlements is irresponsible both on their part and the arbitrators."

Contract talks between the Niagara Regional Police Services Board and the police association were declared at an impasse in May.

The two sides met an arbitrator, former Ontario judge George Adams, for sessions June 4, 29 and 30.

The award gives association members a cumulative

hike of 9.96%, phased in over six increments.

In March, Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan froze the salaries of about 350,000 non-unionized public servants in a bid to trim the budget during tough economic times.

The police board has no choice but to live with the binding arbitration award, chairman Doug Martin said.

"It is what it is. This is the decision of the arbitrator. We'll accept that and will now move forward for the next three years."



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■ **SOCCER:** U8 Boys team

Wildflower Catering serves up win

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham Panthers U8 Boys' Soccer Team recently won their first regular season game against the Grimsby Meteors. Many spectators cheered this team as they went on to a 2-1 win.

The determined Wildflower team was supported by the excellent goalkeeping of David Greczkowski. Nicholas Longo remained steady by leading the team with 2 goals. Forwards Matthew DiRaddo, Luke

DeIGobbo, and Damien Pullar kept up with their all around strong offensive effort with many attempts to score.

The defensive power of Mason Stern kept the Meteors scrambling back to their own net while Ryan Belovari displayed remarkable tackling and consistent defending. The team has had a progressive season so far. In a game against Niagara-on-the-Lake, the team managed to end the game in a 1-1 tie.

Forwards Drew Colangelo, Matthew Martel, and Kyle Otley played a strong game. The defensive tandem of Isaac Vanderweyden and Harrison Doan kept the opponents at bay and away from the Panther's net.

At a one day exhibition tournament held in June at Club Roma, the team managed a difficult day with three games. The final game proved to be the most satisfying with a win against the undefeated Niagara on the Lake

team. Matthew DiRaddo easily maneuvered around the field scoring all three goals in the 3-1 win. Although the team lost the first two games, it was obvious that this team was determined to keep up with the struggle and rise to the challenge.

The Wildflower team members continue to be optimistic and unwavering in their efforts to succeed. This is evident in their dedication during games and at practice. In addition, many of the boys are participating in a week long soccer camp being held right here in Pelham. The camp is led by Bill Millar, coach of the Brock University Varsity Team and a former Canadian National Team player. This soccer camp is sure to enhance their skills and inspire an even greater appreciation of soccer.



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■ **U9 SOCCER**

Liam Sodtke gets two shutouts in a row!

For PelhamNEWS

Liam Sodtke of the U9 Kaman's Auto Service Pelham Panthers Soccer Team got his first shutout of the year against Grimsby in League play on Thursday July 15.

The team won 2-0.

Liam made some great diving saves and the defensive help from Lucas Fast, Devon Thibodeau and Nicholas Chambers helped with the shutout.

Both goals came from Joshua Glen and both were assisted by Quentin Annunziata.

Liam Sodtke's second shutout of the year was the following game against Lincoln with a win of 1-0. Liam had a few hard shots to save and got behind every ball very well.

Even MacPherson and Bradley Steele did a great job on the defense and helped with the shutout as well. The lone goal scorer was by Quentin Annunziata with a great cross from Campbell Veld. Excellent chances came from Ethan Mergl and Zach Pasma.

Pelham's first game of these three was against Thorold on Thursday July 8. The team tied 2-2.

Pelham's first goal was scored by Lucas Fast with a long shot.

Lucas Fast then assisted Quentin Annunziata's goal.

All members of the team worked very hard in this near win.

Pelham played in the Tiamo Soccer Tournament on the weekend and went scoreless against some very tough competition.

Good try boys.

Pelham's next home game is on Aug. 5 at Centennial Park in Fenwick against Concord at 6:30 p.m. for all of those who may be interested in seeing the boys continue with their undefeated four-game league streak.

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